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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 10, 1959

INFORMATION CONCERNING STATEMENTS BY A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Sources which have furnished reliable information in the past to the FBI have reported that Gustav Soucek, head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, made the following statements in Prague, Czechoslovakia, during the month of November, 1959.

Gustav Soucek stated that the Communist Party, USA, and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia should strive for closer contacts and pointed out that the methods of making contacts must be improved. He stated that general information concerning Communist Party matters could be exchanged between the Communist Party, USA, and Czechoslovakia through a news agency rather than through the Czechoslovakian Embassy in the United States. He explained that the Czechoslovakian Information Agency sends press releases to bourgeois newspapers and these press releases could also be sent to the Communist Party, USA, furnishing the latter information such as the general development of the economy in Czechoslovakia. He indicated that the Czechoslovakian Information Agency is controlled by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Soucek continued that as a result of the defection of Lieutenant Colonel Frantisek Tisler, the former Czechoslovakian military attache in the United States, on July 25, 1959, the former contacts in the United States with the Communist Party, USA, have been "spoiled" and the Czechoslovakians have broken all previous contacts with the Communist Party, USA. He said that Tisler's defection has caused the Czechoslovakians to make hard and sweeping changes. Soucek remarked that the Czechoslovakians now have a new ambassador in the United States, Miloslav Ruzek, whom he characterized as a very capable comrade and diplomat. Ruzek is going to change the entire personnel at the Czechoslovakian Embassy in the United States and he has been instructed to change the method of making contacts with members of the Communist Party, USA, and to use illegal channels only when absolutely necessary.

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It was believed that Soucek was referring to the nature of contacts between the Communist Party, USA, and Czechoslovakia and was not referring to intelligence or illegal agents for Czechoslovakia living in the United States. Soucek added that in view of the reorganization of the Czechoslovakian Embassy in the United States, direct contacts between the Communist Party, USA, and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in the United States must be very carefully considered. He suggested that the best method might be to have a contact in Prague and an occasional contact in the United States.

Soucek then suggested the possibility of exchange of trade-union delegations between the United States and Czechoslovakia. He said that a large number of international meetings are held in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He noted specifically that there are a number of trade-union meetings in Prague in connection with the World Federation of Trade-Unions. However, American trade-unionists rarely come to Prague. He mentioned that the Czechoslovakia General Council of Trade-Unions has many contacts in the United States and that it hopes to enlarge its contacts and extend its influence in the United States. Soucek observed that approximately three years ago some trade-union delegates from the United States visited Czechoslovakia and certain of the members of this delegation were of Czechoslovakian origin.

In regard to contacts in the United States by Czechoslovakian Embassy officials with former Czechoslovakian citizens who are members of the Communist Party, USA, Soucek related that these contacts resulted in the development of a bad relationship. However, he added that the Communist Party, USA, should understand that the Czechoslovakians desire to have friendly relationships and contact with former Czechoslovakians and Slovaks who are now residing in the United States. Soucek mentioned that Czechoslovakian diplomatic personnel in the United States have been in contact with Communist Party functionaries from the Illinois and Ohio Districts of the Communist Party, USA.

Soucek stated that Czechoslovakia has a special institution for the spreading of international contacts and relationships which combines cultural with other forms of exchange. During the past year, 3,000 Americans mainly of Czechoslovakian and Slovak descent visited Prague. They came to Czechoslovakia with all kinds of prejudices. They expected to see the churches destroyed and real property taken over by the state. However, when they arrived, they found the treasures intact. They observed that the stores were well

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stocked with food and the people were living well. Soucek stated that among the visitors were bankers of Czechoslovakian descent who were amazed at the banking facilities and the fact that there were so few bank guards. Soucek continued that the Czechoslovakians want these people to visit Czechoslovakia. He explained that some of the American visitors of Czechoslovakian origin visited their home towns and compared the present conditions with those 30 years ago. They changed their opinion of Czechoslovakia and of socialism, and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia can utilize these individuals for propaganda purposes. Soucek emphasized that the establishment of contacts and arranging for tourists from the United States to travel to Czechoslovakia can and must be done legally because Czechoslovakia wants to improve its relationship with the United States.

Soucek stated that Czechoslovakia has various groups traveling abroad. He mentioned that a Czechoslovakian circus traveled in Japan and the Czechoslovakian Philharmonic Orchestra traveled to India, Burma and Australia. He stated that these groups are used to improve contacts in the countries visited. They create good will and are indirectly propaganda. He related that when the Czechoslovakian circus was in Tokyo, Japan, the performers violated instructions and made a sectarian mistake by joining in the celebration of the anniversary of the Communist Party of Japan. He added that in regard to cultural exchanges, the Czechoslovakians are thinking of broad mass contacts and not just contacts with Communist Party members in other countries. Soucek stated that the Czechoslovakian Philharmonic Orchestra would be willing to accept an invitation to the United States and added that he would be interested in non-Communist Party members in the United States who would be interested in promoting Czechoslovakian - American cultural exchanges.

In regard to the Communist Party, USA's attempt to establish an international campaign for defense of its "legal rights," Soucek stated that although the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is willing to do its share in this campaign, he believes it would be more effective to start this campaign in capitalist countries.

Concerning the internal situation in Czechoslovakia, Soucek stated that there has been a rapid improvement in economic conditions with an increase of 11 per cent in production during the first 10 months of 1959. He stated that the problem facing Czechoslovakia is agricultural production. While it has been

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improving steadily, it is not improving fast enough. He explained that the farms are divided into small plots of land which is neither effective nor economical. Soucek said the Czechoslovakians will attempt to push cooperative and collective farm movements on a scientific scale. It will attempt to step up production of agricultural machinery and fertilizers together with the introduction of power and electricity on the farms. In regard to communes, Soucek remarked that while they may be good for China, Czechoslovakia cannot force any such rapid collectivization.

Soucek related that the Czechoslovakian Communist Party was successful in its revolution at a most crucial moment because it had the majority of people on its side. The Czechoslovakian Communist Party had the workers' support and was able to convince the majority of the farmers and the middle class that the communists were fighting for their interests. He continued, "You do not know how close American imperialism came to dominating Czechoslovakia in 1948. However, we beat them because we had good relationship with all strata of our population."

Soucek remarked that a big problem facing the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia today is convincing the working class that the standard of living which is rising rapidly cannot continue to rise without increased productivity. Plants are constantly being mechanized and some automation is being introduced. The younger worker is quite productive. However, the older worker expects to get proportional and constant pay increases as productivity increases. This cannot continue. Soucek stated that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is carrying on a tremendous ideological campaign designed to convince the majority of the workers that all of the increased productivity cannot go merely to increase the standard of living and more of it has to be used for greater capital investment in industry. Soucek complained that many of the workers in Czechoslovakia measure the standard of living by how much meat, butter and milk they receive. He said that accompanying the ideological campaign, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is carrying on an additional campaign organized by scientists, doctors and dietitians to convince the population that overeating is not good.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 10, 1959

VIA LIAISON

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Administration Building
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Allen:

With regard to my letter of December 3, 1959, concerning Czechoslovakian activities in the United States, I thought you would be interested in the enclosed memorandum. This information was obtained as a result of our over-all coverage of the Communist Party, USA, and pertains to statements made by Gustav Soucek, a high-ranking official of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

In view of the extremely sensitive nature of certain of the sources of our information, it is requested that the contents of this communication be afforded the most careful security and its use restricted to a need-to-know basis.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

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